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**HOMICIDE INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTS**

Witness [REDACTED]

Witness [REDACTED]

Witness [REDACTED]

Witness [REDACTED]

Witness [REDACTED]

Witness [REDACTED]

Witness [REDACTED]

Witness [REDACTED]

Witness [REDACTED]

Deputy John Silverstein

Deputy Steve Lespron

Deputy Stephen Park

Deputy [REDACTED]

Witness [REDACTED]

## **INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTS**

Deputy John Silverstein

Deputy Steven Lespron

Deputy Stephen Park

Deputy [REDACTED]

Sergeant [REDACTED]

Deputy Fred Nunes

Deputy [REDACTED]

Deputy Nicholas Coulter

### **EXHIBITS**

- A Sheriff's Department Homicide Case Book.**
- B Call for service.**
- C JSID letter.**
- D 3 DVD's containing crime scene photos, interviews, and video surveillance.**
- E Photos of crime scene.**

### **MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS**

Request for administrative investigation memorandum.

Signed Witness Admonition forms.

In-Service for PM shift on 04-26-2013.



**OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING  
FORM**

# Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

## Officer Involved Shooting

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Report Date: <b>04/26/2013</b>		Bureau/Station/Facility: <b>South Los Angeles Station</b>		Admin. Invest? <input type="checkbox"/> Hit? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Incident Information</b>					
URN: <b>013-03551-0378-013</b>		Date: <b>April 26, 2013</b>		Time: <b>1418HRS</b>	
City or Station: <b>South Los Angeles Station</b>		Nature of Incident: <b>Deputies responded to a call of a domestic violence kidnapping. During investigation, Suspect returned to location and collided into patrol car which struck deputy at scene. Deputy shot Suspect.</b>			
Location: <b>Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles</b>					
Location Type (check one or more): <input type="checkbox"/> Backyard <input type="checkbox"/> Beach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business <input type="checkbox"/> Freeway <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parking Lot <input type="checkbox"/> Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> School <input type="checkbox"/> Street Other:		Lighting (check only one): <input type="checkbox"/> Darkness <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daylight <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Street Lights  Weather (circle only one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clear <input type="checkbox"/> Cloudy <input type="checkbox"/> Fog <input type="checkbox"/> Rain  Distance: <b>5-10 feet</b>		Incident Type (check one or more): <input type="checkbox"/> Accidental <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Armed Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fleeing Suspect <input type="checkbox"/> Foot Pursuit <input type="checkbox"/> Gun Take Away <input type="checkbox"/> Moving Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> Sniper/Ambush <input type="checkbox"/> Startle <input type="checkbox"/> Struggle Involved <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Stop <input type="checkbox"/> Unarmed Person <input type="checkbox"/> Unintentional <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle Pursuit <input type="checkbox"/> Warrant Service <input type="checkbox"/> Warning Shot Other:	
Total # of Shots Fired by Deputy <b>three</b>		Total # of Shots Fired by Suspect <b>none</b>		Initiated by (check only one): <input type="checkbox"/> Arrest Warrant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Call <input type="checkbox"/> Observation <input type="checkbox"/> One Person Unit <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Search Warrant <input type="checkbox"/> Two Person Unit  Prior Activity (check only one): <input type="checkbox"/> Detective <input type="checkbox"/> Inmate Transport <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Routine Patrol  Aero Unit? <input type="checkbox"/> Canine Unit? <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Employee Witnesses</b>					
Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.	ShiftTime (check only one): <input type="checkbox"/> EM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PM <input type="checkbox"/> Day	ShiftType (check only one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Overtime <input type="checkbox"/> Off Duty
	<b>Park</b>	<b>Stephen</b>			
Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.	ShiftTime (check only one): <input type="checkbox"/> EM <input type="checkbox"/> PM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Day	ShiftType (check only one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Overtime <input type="checkbox"/> Off Duty
	<b>Silverstein</b>	<b>John</b>			
Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.	ShiftTime (check only one): <input type="checkbox"/> EM <input type="checkbox"/> PM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Day	ShiftType (check only one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Overtime <input type="checkbox"/> Off Duty
	<b>Lespron</b>	<b>Steven</b>	<b>M.</b>		
<b>Non-Employee Witnesses</b>					
Last Name		First Name		M.I.	
Street Address		City	Zip	Work Ph	Home Ph
Last Name		First Name		M.I.	
Street Address		City	Zip	Work Ph	Home Ph
Last Name		First Name		M.I.	
Street Address		City	Zip	Work Ph	Home Ph
<b>Supervisors</b>					
Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.	(check one or more):	
			<b>A.</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On Duty <input type="checkbox"/> Witness to shooting <input type="checkbox"/> Present during shooting <input type="checkbox"/> Involved in shooting	
Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.	(check one or more):	
	<b>Conley</b>	<b>Richard</b>	<b>L.</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On Duty <input type="checkbox"/> Witness to shooting <input type="checkbox"/> Present during shooting <input type="checkbox"/> Involved in shooting	
<b>Watch Sergeant</b>					
Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.		
	<b>Romero</b>	<b>Slavador</b>			
<b>Watch Commander</b>					
Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.		
	<b>Thrall</b>	<b>Johann</b>	<b>W.</b>		

<b>PSTD Use Only</b>
SH # _____

Rollout Information							
Arrival Date	04/26/2013	Arrival time	1615Hrs	Date Submitted	06/09/2016	Date of Recommendation	June 23, 2016
Employee #	[REDACTED]	Last Name	Ladjevic	First Name	David	M.I.	
Employee #	[REDACTED]	Last Name	Flores	First Name	Carlos	M.I.	E.
Employee #	[REDACTED]	Last Name	Berg	First Name	Michael	M.I.	R.
Shooting / Force Information							

## Method

(AW)	Anwen	(OV)	Other Weapon: Vehicle
(BC)	Baton:(Control)	(OB)	Other Weapon: Blunt Object
(BI)	Baton:(Impact)	(OO)	Other Weapon: Other
(BF)	Bodily Fluids	(PK)	Personal Weapon: Feet/Leg: (Kick)
(CN)	Canine	(PS)	Personal Weapon: Feet/Leg: (Sweep)
(CR)	Carotid Restraint	(PH)	Personal Weapon (Hand/Arm)
(CH)	Choke Hold	(PP)	Personal Weapon (Push)
(CT)	Control Holds:(Control Techniques)	(PO)	Personal Weapon (Other)
(TT)	Control Holds:(Team Takedown)	(RS)	Resistance
(TD)	Control Holds:(Takedown)	(CN)	Restraint Device (Capture Net)
(CE)	Chemical	(RH)	Restraint Device (Handcuffs)
(OC)	Chemical Agents (OC Spray)	(HB)	Restraint Device:Hobble (Legs Only)
(TG)	Chemical Agents (Tear Gas)	(TP)	Restraint Device:Hobble (TARP)
(EX)	Explosives	(RE)	Restraint Device: REACT Belt
(FH)	Firearm (Handgun)	(SP)	Sap
(FR)	Firearm (Rifle)	(SH)	Shield
(FS)	Firearm (Shotgun)	(SG)	37mm Stinger
(FO)	Firearm (Other)	(SB)	Sting Ball
(FB)	Flashbang	(ST)	Stun Bag
(FL)	Flashlight	(TR)	Taser
(OE)	Other Weapon: Edged	(UC)	Uncooperative

### Type of Injury

(AB)	Abrasion
(BR)	Bruise
(BU)	Burn
(CP)	Complaint of Pain
(CO)	Concussion
(DH)	Death
(DI)	Dislocation
(DB)	Dog Bite
(FR)	Fractures
(GS)	Gunshot
(HB)	Human Bite
(LC)	Lacerations
(ND)	Nerve Damage
(OD)	Organ Damage
(PA)	Paralysis
(PW)	Puncture Wound
(SD)	Soft Tissue Damage
(ST)	Sprain/Twists
(UN)	Unconscious
(RM)	Refused Med Treatment
(NN)	NONE

**Body Part Injured**

(AD)	Abdomen
(AK)	Ankle
(AR)	Arm
(BK)	Back
(BT)	Buttocks
(CH)	Chest
(EL)	Elbow
(FA)	Face
(FE)	Feet
(FI)	Fingers
(GE)	Genitals
(GR)	Groin
(HD)	Hand
(HE)	Head
(HI)	Hip
(IN)	Internal
(KN)	Knees
(LE)	Leg
(NK)	Neck
(SH)	Shoulder
(WR)	Wrist

**Brand**

(AK)	AK-47	(JE)	Jennings	(SW)	Smith & Wesson
(BN)	Benelli	(LO)	Lorcin	(SR)	Sturm Ruger
(BR)	Beretta	(LU)	Luger	(SS)	SIG Sauer
(BW)	Browning	(MA)	Marlin	(ST)	Sterling
(CH)	Charter Arms	(MO)	Mossberg	(TA)	Taurus
(CO)	Colt	(NC)	NCI aka SKS	(WE)	Weatherby
(DA)	Davis Industries	(NA)	North American	(WN)	Winchester
(GL)	Glock	(NO)	Norinco	(US)	US Government
(HA)	Harrington & Richardson	(RA)	Raven	(YY)	Handmade (Inmate)
(HI)	Hi Standard	(RM)	Remington	(XX)	Homemade (Non-Inmate)
(HK)	H & K	(RG)	RG	(ZZ)	Other Brand
(IT)	Ithica	(RI)	RGI		

**Caliber**

9)	9 mm	(24)	.243 caliber	(41)	.410 gauge
10)	10 mm	(25)	.25 caliber	(44)	.44 caliber
12)	12 gauge	(30)	.308 caliber	(45)	.45 caliber
20)	20 gauge	(35)	.357 caliber	(50)	50 mm
21)	.22-250	(36)	30-60 caliber	(SL)	Slug
22)	.22 caliber	(38)	.38 caliber	(VVA)	Other caliber
23)	.223 caliber	(40)	.40 caliber		

**FORCE APPLIED** (one code per block)[illegible]



# Officer Involved Shooting Involved Employee Information

URN: 013-03551-0378-013

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Involved Employee										
E 1	Employee #		Last Name			First Name		M.I.		
	Sex: M		Race: O		Rank: DSG		Unit Assignment: SLA		Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.): Unit 31	
	ShiftTime (circle only one): <input type="checkbox"/> EM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PM <input type="checkbox"/> Day		ShiftType (circle only one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Overtime <input type="checkbox"/> Off Duty		Intoxication/Drug Usage? <input type="checkbox"/>		Substance Used:			
	Hospital Admission? <input type="checkbox"/>		Hospital Name:		Coroner Case? <input type="checkbox"/>		Coroner Case #		Interviewed? <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Hrs of sleep prior to shooting: 8HRS		Duty Time (hrs):		Clothing (circle only one): <input type="checkbox"/> Plain Clothes no Vest <input type="checkbox"/> Raid Jacket w/ Vest <input type="checkbox"/> Plain Clothes w/ Vest <input type="checkbox"/> Uniform no Vest <input type="checkbox"/> Raid Jacket no Vest <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uniform w/ Vest		Other Factors:			
	Age:		Height: 5'10"		Weight: 183lbs					
	Range Qualification Date:		PPC Qualification Date:		Laser Training Date:					
	Certified with Weapon Used? <input type="checkbox"/>		Patrol Certification? <input type="checkbox"/>		Certification Unit:		Prior Shootings? <input type="checkbox"/>		Number of Prior Shootings:	
	Weapons Fired Brand: Beretta 92FS		Caliber: 9MM		# Shots: 3		Weapons Fired Brand:		Caliber: # Shots:	
	Field Training Officer Emp #			Last Name			First Name			M.I.
Field Training Officer Emp #			Last Name			First Name			M.I.	
E	Employee #		Last Name			First Name		M.I.		
	Sex:		Race:		Rank:		Unit Assignment:		Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.):	
	ShiftTime (circle only one): <input type="checkbox"/> EM <input type="checkbox"/> PM <input type="checkbox"/> Day		ShiftType (circle only one): <input type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Overtime <input type="checkbox"/> Off Duty		Intoxication/Drug Usage? <input type="checkbox"/>		Substance Used:			
	Hospital Admission? <input type="checkbox"/>		Hospital Name:		Coroner Case? <input type="checkbox"/>		Coroner Case #		Interviewed? <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Hrs of sleep prior to shooting:		Duty Time (hrs):		Clothing (circle only one): <input type="checkbox"/> Plain Clothes no Vest <input type="checkbox"/> Raid Jacket w/ Vest <input type="checkbox"/> Plain Clothes w/ Vest <input type="checkbox"/> Uniform no Vest <input type="checkbox"/> Raid Jacket no Vest <input type="checkbox"/> Uniform w/ Vest		Other Factors:			
	Age:		Height:		Weight:					
	Range Qualification Date:		PPC Qualification Date:		Laser Training Date:					
	Certified with Weapon Used? <input type="checkbox"/>		Patrol Certification? <input type="checkbox"/>		Certification Unit:		Prior Shootings? <input type="checkbox"/>		Number of Prior Shootings:	
	Weapons Fired Brand:		Caliber:		# Shots:		Weapons Fired Brand:		Caliber: # Shots:	
	Field Training Officer Emp #			Last Name			First Name			M.I.
Field Training Officer Emp #			Last Name			First Name			M.I.	
E	Employee #		Last Name			First Name		M.I.		
	Sex:		Race:		Rank:		Unit Assignment:		Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.):	
	ShiftTime (circle only one): <input type="checkbox"/> EM <input type="checkbox"/> PM <input type="checkbox"/> Day		ShiftType (circle only one): <input type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Overtime <input type="checkbox"/> Off Duty		Intoxication/Drug Usage? <input type="checkbox"/>		Substance Used:			
	Hospital Admission? <input type="checkbox"/>		Hospital Name:		Coroner Case? <input type="checkbox"/>		Coroner Case #		Interviewed? <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Hrs of sleep prior to shooting:		Duty Time (hrs):		Clothing (circle only one): <input type="checkbox"/> Plain Clothes no Vest <input type="checkbox"/> Raid Jacket w/ Vest <input type="checkbox"/> Plain Clothes w/ Vest <input type="checkbox"/> Uniform no Vest <input type="checkbox"/> Raid Jacket no Vest <input type="checkbox"/> Uniform w/ Vest		Other Factors:			
	Age:		Height:		Weight:					
	Range Qualification Date:		PPC Qualification Date:		Laser Training Date:					
	Certified with Weapon Used? <input type="checkbox"/>		Patrol Certification? <input type="checkbox"/>		Certification Unit:		Prior Shootings? <input type="checkbox"/>		Number of Prior Shootings:	
	Weapons Fired Brand:		Caliber:		# Shots:		Weapons Fired Brand:		Caliber: # Shots:	
	Field Training Officer Emp #			Last Name			First Name			M.I.
Field Training Officer Emp #			Last Name			First Name			M.I.	

# Officer Involved Shooting Suspect Information

URN: 013-03551-0378-013

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Suspect Information												
S 1	Last Name			Jefferson			First Name		Brice		M.I.	Q.
	AKA Last Name						First Name				M.I.	
	Sex:	M	Race:	Black	Street Address:				City			
	Work Phone:				Home Phone:				Social S			
	Age:	24	D.O.B.	12/15/1988	Height:	604	Weight:	185lb	FBI #			
	Booking #				Primary Charge:				Secondary Charge:			
	Coroner Case?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Coroner Case #	2013-03100			Intoxication/Drug Usage?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Substance Used:	Methamphetamine		
	Armed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Apprehended?	<input type="checkbox"/>				Criminal History?	<input type="checkbox"/>			
	Vehicle Make	Mercury			Model:	Tracer			Year:	1997		
	Parole:	No			Probation:	No			Prior Felony Conviction:	Yes		
S	Last Name						First Name				M.I.	
	AKA Last Name						First Name				M.I.	
	Sex:		Race:		Street Address:				City	State & Zip Code:		
	Work Phone:				Home Phone:				Social Security #:	Driver's License #:		
	Age:		D.O.B.		Height:		Weight:		FBI #	CII #		
	Booking #				Primary Charge:				Secondary Charge:			
	Coroner Case?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coroner Case #				Intoxication/Drug Usage?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substance Used:			
	Armed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Apprehended?	<input type="checkbox"/>				Mental Illness?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Criminal History?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Vehicle Make				Model:				Year:			
	Parole:				Probation:				Prior Felony Conviction:			
S	Last Name						First Name				M.I.	
	AKA Last Name						First Name				M.I.	
	Sex:		Race:		Street Address:				City	State & Zip Code:		
	Work Phone:				Home Phone:				Social Security #:	Driver's License #:		
	Age:		D.O.B.		Height:		Weight:		FBI #	CII #		
	Booking #				Primary Charge:				Secondary Charge:			
	Coroner Case?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coroner Case #				Intoxication/Drug Usage?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substance Used:			
	Armed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Apprehended?	<input type="checkbox"/>				Mental Illness?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Criminal History?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Vehicle Make				Model:				Year:			
	Parole:				Probation:				Prior Felony Conviction:			
S	Last Name						First Name				M.I.	
	AKA Last Name						First Name				M.I.	
	Sex:		Race:		Street Address:				City	State & Zip Code:		
	Work Phone:				Home Phone:				Social Security #:	Driver's License #:		
	Age:		D.O.B.		Height:		Weight:		FBI #	CII #		
	Booking #				Primary Charge:				Secondary Charge:			
	Coroner Case?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coroner Case #				Intoxication/Drug Usage?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substance Used:			
	Armed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Apprehended?	<input type="checkbox"/>				Mental Illness?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Criminal History?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Vehicle Make				Model:				Year:			
	Parole:				Probation:				Prior Felony Conviction:			



## Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

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Non-Employee Witnesses					
Last Name		First Name		M.I.	
Street Address		Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph	
Last Name		First Name		M.I.	
Street Address		Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph	
Last Name		First Name		M.I.	
Street Address		Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph	
Last Name		First Name		M.I.	
Street Address		Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph	
Last Name		First Name		M.I.	
Street Address		Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph	
Last Name		First Name		M.I.	
Street Address		Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph	
Last Name		First Name		M.I.	
Street Address		Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph	
Last Name		First Name		M.I.	
Street Address		Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph	
Last Name		First Name		M.I.	
Street Address		Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph	
Last Name		First Name		M.I.	
Street Address		Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph	
Last Name		First Name		M.I.	
Street Address		Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph	
Last Name		First Name		M.I.	
Street Address		Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph	
Last Name		First Name		M.I.	
Street Address		Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph	
Last Name		First Name		M.I.	
Street Address		Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph	
Last Name		First Name		M.I.	
Street Address		Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph	

# **INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY**

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

**INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY**

**INCIDENT:** On-duty hit shooting, suspect deceased  
**IAB FILE NUMBER:** SH 2333612  
**URN#:** 013-03551-0378-013  
**DATE/TIME:** April 26, 2013, 1418 hours  
**LOCATION:** [REDACTED] Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles

**SYNOPSIS**

On Saturday, April 26, 2013, an Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) team comprised of Lieutenant Michael Berg, and Sergeants David Ladjevic and Carlos Flores responded to an incident command post regarding an on-duty hit shooting. The command post was established by South Los Angeles Station personnel. The shooting resulted in the death of Suspect Brice Quinton Jefferson (M/B/12/15/1988). On September 2, 2015, the case was reassigned to IAB Sergeant David Moore.

Detectives Gary Sica and Michael Rodriguez from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Homicide Bureau arrived and assumed control of the homicide investigation. For further information regarding the homicide investigation refer to the Homicide case book, under URN #013-03551-0378-013 [EXHIBIT A].

IAB Lieutenant Berg checked to ensure the South Los Angeles Station Watch Commander, Lieutenant Johann Thrall, took reasonable steps to ensure the involved parties and witnesses did not discuss the incident amongst themselves or with uninvolved persons prior to being interviewed by the assigned investigators. In addition, Lieutenant Berg also ensured Lieutenant Thrall knew the aforementioned parties should not collectively consult with their attorney or representative. Lieutenant Berg confirmed the involved and witness personnel were gathered in the company of a supervisor until they provided a statement to the assigned investigators.

On Saturday, April 26, 2013, Witness [REDACTED] agreed to pick up Suspect Jefferson with whom she had a [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] residence in Los Angeles. Two weeks prior, Witness [REDACTED] and Suspect Jefferson [REDACTED] and they [REDACTED] in the city of Mojave. Witness [REDACTED] and Suspect Jefferson [REDACTED] in Los Angeles.



Witness [REDACTED] agreed to pick up Suspect Jefferson and drive him to the Social Services offices in the city of El Monte.

When Witness [REDACTED] picked up Suspect Jefferson, she had her [REDACTED] with her. Witness [REDACTED] noticed she was low on fuel when she picked up Suspect Jefferson. She telephoned a friend (Witness [REDACTED]) and asked to borrow some money for gas. [REDACTED] worked at "[REDACTED]" located at [REDACTED] Vermont Avenue. While Witness [REDACTED] drove to the [REDACTED] store at [REDACTED] Vermont Avenue to meet Witness [REDACTED], Suspect Jefferson argued with Witness [REDACTED] about her planned move to Texas the following day. As they argued, Suspect Jefferson choked Witness [REDACTED] grabbed the steering wheel of the car, and tried to veer the car off of the freeway and toward other cars. Suspect Jefferson always wore a knife which was attached to a lanyard around his neck. While they argued, he pulled another knife from his pocket and stated, "I should kill you right now, you don't care about me, you're not going to make your flight!"

**IAB NOTE: The knife which was attached to Suspect Jefferson's neck is described as a straight edged bladed black knife (EV-11) held in a sheath which was attached to a lanyard. The knife which Suspect Jefferson removed from his pocket while in transit, is described as a folding switch blade style black knife EV-10 [EXHIBIT A page 43].**

Suspect Jefferson demanded Witness [REDACTED] exit the freeway (110 South) at Gage Avenue. When she exited, he directed her to an alley near the off-ramp, and told her to park. When they stopped, Suspect Jefferson told Witness [REDACTED] to open the hood, turn the emergency flashers on, and get out of the vehicle. They both stood by the open hood of the car. Suspect Jefferson continued to argue with Witness [REDACTED] as they stood near the front of the vehicle, which concealed them from onlookers. As they argued, a male black adult appeared from the backyard of a residence and asked if they were alright. Witness [REDACTED] believed the male may have "spooked" Suspect Jefferson because he told her to get back into the car. They drove out of the alley and continued to the beauty shop.

**IAB NOTE: The male who appeared from the nearby residence was identified as [REDACTED] and interviewed by Homicide Detectives Ralph Hernandez and Kevin Lowe. Refer to Homicide book, page 88.**

When they arrived at the [REDACTED], Suspect Jefferson told Witness [REDACTED] to leave the keys to the car in the ignition, leave the [REDACTED] and go inside the shop to get the gas money. Suspect Jefferson threatened Witness [REDACTED] by telling her if she attempted to alert anyone of the situation, he would go into the [REDACTED] and kill her, [REDACTED]

Witness [REDACTED] ran into the [REDACTED] and frantically told an employee (Witness [REDACTED]) to call the police because Suspect Jefferson was going to kill her.

Witness [REDACTED] ran into the bathroom and locked the door. Once inside the bathroom, Witness [REDACTED] heard Suspect Jefferson talking to Witness [REDACTED] inside the store. She heard Witness [REDACTED] tell Suspect Jefferson, "You can't do this at my job, I'm going to call the police." Witness [REDACTED] heard Witness [REDACTED] ask Suspect Jefferson to let the [REDACTED] out of the car. Suspect Jefferson stated, "I'm about to go," then drove away from the location with the [REDACTED].

**IAB NOTE: A call for service (tag 121) was generated and assigned to Deputies [REDACTED] and Park [EXHIBIT B].**

Prior to the deputies arrival, Witness [REDACTED] used her cell phone and called Suspect Jefferson in an effort to have him return the [REDACTED] South Los Angeles Station Unit 31, Deputies [REDACTED] and Stephen Park, arrived at the [REDACTED] and contacted Witness [REDACTED] in the parking lot in front of the location. Two South Los Angeles Station Detectives, Detective Steve Lespron and Detective John Silverstein, arrived at the location to assist with the call. As Deputy [REDACTED] Detective Silverstein, and Detective Lespron spoke to Witness [REDACTED] Deputy Park took the initial information obtained, and returned to his vehicle to try to get further information on Suspect Jefferson via his Mobile Digital Computer. He was seated in the front passenger seat of his patrol vehicle. The patrol vehicle was in the parking lot of the location facing south and directly behind several other civilian vehicles (facing west) which were parked in stalls marked for the businesses at the location. When Detectives Silverstein and Lespron arrived, they parked directly behind the patrol vehicle facing south. Deputy [REDACTED] Detectives Silverstein, and Lespron continued to try to obtain information about the incident from Witness [REDACTED] while they stood toward the front of the patrol vehicle in the parking lot.

Witness [REDACTED] advised the deputies on scene of the phone call conversation she had with Suspect Jefferson after he left with the [REDACTED]. She advised the deputies Suspect Jefferson said he had dropped the [REDACTED] off at a "Ralph's Market" at 120<sup>th</sup> Street and Vermont. In the phone call with Witness [REDACTED] Suspect Jefferson said, "Oh you, I'm going to come, I'm on my way and they better shoot!" Refer to Homicide transcripts page 14, lines 27 and 28. Detectives Lespron and Silverstein attempted to contact Suspect Jefferson using Witness [REDACTED] cell phone. However, Suspect Jefferson would not respond to Detective Lespron, and hung up.

As deputies attempted to contact Suspect Jefferson, Witness [REDACTED] saw Suspect Jefferson travelling in her car (red Mercury Tracer) southbound on Vermont Avenue in front of the location. Suspect Jefferson swerved into the location's southern Vermont Avenue driveway, cut off, and struck a vehicle driven by [REDACTED] which was driving next to him (on his right side) as he accelerated into the driveway. As Suspect Jefferson accelerated into the parking lot, Witness [REDACTED] believing Suspect Jefferson was not going to stop, turned, and ran back into the [REDACTED].

IAB NOTE: [REDACTED] was interviewed by Homicide investigators on April 26, 2013. [REDACTED] told investigators Suspect Jefferson drove on the wrong side of the street on Imperial Highway prior to making his southbound turn onto Vermont Avenue. [REDACTED] said Suspect Jefferson was to her left as they both drove southbound Vermont Avenue. Suspect Jefferson angrily looked at [REDACTED] and abruptly turned in front of her. Suspect Jefferson cut her off and collided with the front of her vehicle as he turned into the driveway of the where deputies and Witness [REDACTED] were standing. She saw Suspect Jefferson accelerate directly at the patrol car and collide into it. [REDACTED] told investigators she believed one of the deputies standing next to the patrol car was struck when the collision occurred.

Detective Silverstein was standing near the front of the patrol vehicle with Detective Lespron and Deputy [REDACTED], talking with Witness [REDACTED] when Suspect Jefferson accelerated into the parking lot. Detective Silverstein saw Suspect Jefferson stared at the group of deputies as he accelerated into the parking lot.

Detective Silverstein realized Suspect Jefferson had no intention of stopping or slowing down, he became scared, and not wanting to get hit by the vehicle, ran northbound away from the vehicle's path.

Detective Lespron was also standing near the front of the patrol vehicle when Suspect Jefferson accelerated into the parking lot. Detective Lespron ran along the side of the patrol vehicle to try and use the patrol vehicle for protection from being hit by Suspect Jefferson.

Deputy [REDACTED] was also standing next to Witness [REDACTED] Detectives Silverstein and Lespron when Suspect Jefferson accelerated into the parking lot. Deputy [REDACTED] saw Suspect Jefferson driving directly at the group very quickly. Not wanting to be struck by the vehicle, Deputy [REDACTED] turned and ran northbound in the parking lot to try and get away from Suspect Jefferson.

Deputy Park was seated in the front passenger seat of the patrol vehicle when he saw Suspect Jefferson enter the driveway of the parking lot where they were located. Deputy Park heard Suspect Jefferson's vehicle accelerate into the parking lot and saw Suspect Jefferson driving directly at the patrol car he was seated in. Prior to the collision, Deputy Park saw Detective Lespron standing near the front driver's side of the patrol vehicle.

Deputy Park felt trapped, scared, and felt there was no way for him to get out of the patrol car safely. Deputy Park braced himself inside of the patrol vehicle and awaited the impact of the collision.



Suspect Jefferson deliberately drove his vehicle into Deputy [REDACTED] and Park's patrol vehicle and collided into the driver's side front quarter panel. The collision was so forceful, it moved the parked patrol car several feet to the west. Suspect Jefferson's vehicle continued further into the parking lot after colliding into the patrol vehicle and struck another vehicle which was parked in front of the businesses at the location. Suspect Jefferson's vehicle then came to a rest.

In an effort to avoid being struck by Suspect Jefferson's vehicle, Detective Lespron positioned himself on the west side of the patrol vehicle at the time of the collision, running away from the vehicle. Since the collision forced the patrol vehicle further west, it struck Detective Lespron as he ran away, and threw him into the air. He landed on the ground, on his back, between two parked vehicles which were parked in front of the businesses at the location. Refer to Homicides transcripts of Detective Lespron on page 6 lines 29-32, and page 7 lines 1-8.

Deputy [REDACTED] who avoided being struck by Suspect Jefferson's vehicle by approximately a foot, found himself standing next to Suspect Jefferson's vehicle at the rear passenger side window when it came to a rest. In addition to Suspect Jefferson's vehicle on his left, he also had his patrol vehicle on his right. Suspect Jefferson's vehicle and the patrol car formed a "V" shape.

Suspect Jefferson's vehicle had its right front quarter panel impacted into the left front quarter panel of the patrol car, which formed a "V" shape.

While Deputy [REDACTED] stood in the "V," he looked into Suspect Jefferson's vehicle and saw Suspect Jefferson looking to the rear, directly at him. Suspect Jefferson revved the engine, and appeared to be trying to get the vehicle in reverse. Deputy [REDACTED] stood about 5-10 feet away from Suspect Jefferson who was seated in the driver's seat of the vehicle.

Deputy [REDACTED] knew he was in a horrible position and thought about moving away. However, once assessed, he believed if he had moved he would have been run over, or pinned to his own vehicle, by Suspect Jefferson's vehicle.

He was also concerned for Detective Lespron because he could no longer see him after the collision, but did see him "fly into the air" when the vehicles collided. Deputy [REDACTED] thought Detective Lespron could be pinned under one of the vehicles.

Deputy [REDACTED] seeing Suspect Jefferson's actions, believed he was about to put the vehicle in reverse and continue his assault, drew his duty weapon and pointed it at Suspect Jefferson. Suspect Jefferson continued to look back at him, revved the engine, and continued to try and put the vehicle into reverse.

Deputy Paik [REDACTED] he had no other option, and aimed his weapon at Suspect Jefferson. He saw Suspect Jefferson's upper body was in his view. Refer to page 16, lines 20-28 of Internal Affairs Bureau interview of Deputy [REDACTED]

Other than Suspect Jefferson in his view, he saw the rear bumpers of vehicles which were parked in front of the businesses at the location facing west.

Deputy [REDACTED] aim was in a "downward" angle as he was standing, and Suspect Jefferson was seated in the driver's seat of his vehicle. Deputy [REDACTED] could see a child seat in Suspect Jefferson's vehicle, but he did not see any children in the seat, or the vehicle. Refer to Internal Affairs Bureau interview transcripts of Deputy [REDACTED] page 17, lines 1-13.

Additionally, Deputy [REDACTED] did not see any pedestrian traffic in front of the businesses at the location. Deputy [REDACTED] fired three rounds from his Department issued Berretta 9MM weapon. Deputy [REDACTED] saw Suspect Jefferson "move a little," then his head tilted to the rear which made him believe he had struck Suspect Jefferson. The three shots were fired in succession. He did not see any further movement from Suspect Jefferson.

Deputy [REDACTED] used his radio and announced there had been a deputy involved shooting at the location. Sergeant [REDACTED] arrived on scene approximately 3 minutes later.

Paramedics were dispatched to the location and arrived about seven to ten minutes after the shooting. Paramedic Elliot pronounced Suspect Jefferson deceased at 2:55 p.m. Detective Lespron was transported to UCLA Harbor General Hospital for treatment of his injuries. Detective Lespron sustained a [REDACTED] as a result of being struck by the vehicle.

**IAB NOTE:**

[REDACTED] Most commonly occurring after a fracture.

Deputies [REDACTED] and Park were transported to South Los Angeles Station by Sergeant Rick Rector. Both deputies remained in Detective Bureau with Sergeant Robert Chism pending the arrival of Homicide investigators.

Deputy Nicholas Coulter, who assisted with the incident, located Witness [REDACTED] at Ralph's market located at 11922 Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles. The [REDACTED] were not injured and were transported to South Los Angeles Station and returned to their [REDACTED].

Sergeant [REDACTED] was the first field Sergeant to arrive at the scene after the incident. Sergeant [REDACTED] believed he responded to the location from the station which was close by. Sergeant [REDACTED] arrived after the shooting had taken place and immediately checked on the status of the involved personnel. He stated he was concerned for Detective Lespron as it appeared he was in shock. Refer to transcripts for Sergeant [REDACTED] page 3, lines 5-14.

Sergeant [REDACTED] said as he was watching over Detective Lespron, he saw deputies at the scene had taken Suspect Jefferson out of the car and handcuffed him pending the arrival of paramedics. Sergeant [REDACTED] said because he was worried about Detective Lespron, it seemed like it took a while for paramedics to arrive.

Sergeant [REDACTED] instructed Deputy Nunes to videotape the scene with the Field Sergeant's camera. The tape was to memorialize the scene for future civil and criminal litigation.

**IAB NOTE:** IAB Investigators were not able to locate a copy of the video which was conducted by Deputy Nunes. Sergeant [REDACTED] did not remember what happened to the video camera after giving it to Deputy Nunes. Investigators contacted South Los Angeles Station Lieutenant Rodney Moore who researched the files at the station in an effort to locate them. None were found. Investigators interviewed Deputy Fred Nunes and Deputy [REDACTED] in regards to the video. No one knew of the tapes whereabouts.

#### **DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S LETTER OF OPINION**

The Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office reviewed the fatal shooting of Brice Jefferson by Deputy [REDACTED] in their letter of opinion [Exhibit C], dated September 16, 2014, Deputy District Attorney Ann Marie Wise concluded Deputy [REDACTED] acted lawfully, in self-defense, and in defense of others when he used deadly force against Brice Jefferson.

#### **INVOLVED PERSONNEL**

[REDACTED], Deputy Sheriff, [REDACTED]  
Central Patrol Division  
South Los Angeles Station

#### **Work History**

Date of Employment: February 23, 2003  
Date Assigned to Patrol:  
Date Completed Patrol Training:  
Date Assigned to South Los Angeles Station:  
Prior Shooting Incident(s):  
Prior Founded Force Incident(s):



#### **Equipment Worn On Person**

Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray

Expandable Baton



## **SUSPECT INFORMATION**

### **Brice Quinton Jefferson**

Male, Black, DOB: December 15, 1988, 6'04", 185 pounds

Deceased

CII # [REDACTED], MAIN # [REDACTED], FBI # [REDACTED]

**IAB NOTE: A copy of Suspect Jefferson's criminal history is included in the Homicide Investigation Book [Exhibit A, pages 96-123].**

## **SUSPECT'S INJURIES**

Suspect Brice Jefferson sustained gunshot wounds from two 9mm rounds; one to his right shoulder, and one to the back of his head. [Exhibit A, page 124].

## **DEPUTY PERSONNEL INJURIES**

Deputy Lespron told homicide investigators he was diagnosed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [Exhibit A, pages 94-95].

## **PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

All physical evidence was located and collected by Deputy John Chun, from Scientific Services Bureau. Evidence was documented by Homicide Bureau Investigators and Scientific Services Bureau personnel; refer to [EXHIBIT A, page 54-60]. Additionally a DVD containing crime scene photographs and a video was provided with this case, [EXHIBIT D].

## **INVESTIGATORS OBSERVATIONS**

The scene was described in detail by Homicide Detectives Sica and Rodriguez [Exhibit A, page 31-34].

Their description of the scene was consistent with IAB Investigator's observations. The scene was also photographed by Deputy Chun.

## **WEAPON USED BY DEPUTY [REDACTED]**

Deputy [REDACTED] fired three rounds of Department issued 9mm ammunition from his Department issued Beretta, Model 92FS, semi-automatic pistol, with attached 15 round magazine. The firearm was examined and tested by Sheriff's Senior Criminalist, [REDACTED], and found to be functional. [Exhibit A, page 61].

An examination of Deputy [REDACTED] firearm by Homicide Detectives indicated he shot a total of three rounds.

Deputy [REDACTED] carried his weapon with fifteen rounds in the magazine and one round in the chamber. Following the shooting, his weapon contained thirteen live 9mm rounds. [Exhibit A page 80].

Date last qualified: [REDACTED]

Date last trained with weapon: [REDACTED]

Three expended 9mm casings were recovered at the scene [Exhibit A, page 29-30]. One projectile was recovered from the body of Suspect Jefferson [Exhibit A, pages 78-83]. One projectile was recovered from the trunk lid of a Chevrolet Impala parked at the location [Exhibit A, page 60].

#### WEAPON USED BY SUSPECT JEFFERSON

1997 Mercury Tracer, 4 door, Burgundy, license [REDACTED] [Refer to Exhibit A, page 25].

#### PROPERTY DAMAGE

A bullet hole in the front passenger's seat of the Mercury Tracer driven by Suspect Jefferson.

The bullet traveled slightly downward, passed through the rear passenger side door window, and perforated the backside of the front passenger's seat headrest near the right upper edge. The bullet continued its travel and exited the vehicle through the driver's door window opening and implanted itself in the trunk lid of a 2000 Chevrolet Impala California License plate [REDACTED]. [Exhibit A, page 59].

Bullet impact in the storefront window frame located in the east exterior wall of the business located at [REDACTED] Vermont Avenue, [REDACTED]. The bullet traveled in a southwest direction, and impacted the north facing surface of a vertical window frame, shattering the glass. No other trajectory could be determined, and no bullet was located.

Sheriff's Department Patrol vehicle #SD5787 assigned to Unit 31, Deputies [REDACTED] and Park, sustained major collision damage to the left front fender caused by Suspect Jefferson. [Exhibit E].

Collision damage to the front bumper and hood of the vehicle driven by Suspect Jefferson. A red Mercury Tracer, California License plate [REDACTED] [EXHIBIT E].

Rear bumper collision damage to a Dodge Intrepid California License Plate [REDACTED]. The vehicle was parked in front of Suspect Jefferson's vehicle [EXHIBIT E].

Driver's side front end collision damage to a 2004 Chevrolet Trailblazer California License Plate [REDACTED] which belonged to [REDACTED] [EXHIBIT E].

### **CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS**

The criminal investigation into the shooting was handled by Detectives Michael Rodriguez and Gary Sica.

### **LIGHTING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS**

This incident occurred during daylight hours.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Suspect Jefferson was determined to have a level of Methamphetamine in him at the time of the autopsy performed on him. The level of intoxication in a sample of Suspect Jefferson's urine was listed as 0.07 ug/mL. A level of 0.03 ug/mL was detected from a fluid sample taken from his heart. **Refer to EXHIBIT A page 137.**

**IAB NOTE: "ug/mL" is an abbreviation for Microgram per Milliliter.**

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Administrative Rights, Shooting Review forms presented to Deputies [REDACTED] Lespron, Silverstein, and Park. Witness Admonition forms signed by Deputies Coulter and Nunes.



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**  
**BUREAU OF FRAUD AND CORRUPTION PROSECUTIONS**  
**JUSTICE SYSTEM INTEGRITY DIVISION**

JACKIE LACEY • District Attorney  
SHARON J. MATSUMOTO • Chief Deputy District Attorney  
JOSEPH P. ESPOSITO • Assistant District Attorney

SCOTT K. GOODWIN • Director

September 16, 2014

Captain Duane Harris  
Homicide Bureau  
Los Angeles Sheriff's Department  
5747 Rickenbacker Road  
Commerce, California 90040

RE: J.S.I.D. File #13-0278  
L.A.S.D. File #013-03551-0378-013

Dear Captain Harris:

The Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has completed its review of the April 26, 2013 fatal shooting of Brice Jefferson by Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) Deputy [REDACTED]. We have concluded that Deputy [REDACTED] acted lawfully in self-defense and in defense of others.

The District Attorney's Command Center was notified of the shooting at approximately 4:33 p.m., on April 26, 2013. The District Attorney Response Team, comprised of Deputy District Attorney Natalie Adomian and District Attorney Senior Investigator Tanya Newton, responded to the location. They were given a briefing regarding the circumstances surrounding the shooting and a walk-through of the scene.

The following analysis is based on investigative reports, firearms analysis reports, the autopsy report, dispatch recordings, crime scene diagrams, photographic evidence and witness statements submitted to this office by LASD Detectives Gary Sica and Michael Rodriguez. The voluntary statement of Deputy [REDACTED] was considered as part of this analysis.

**FACTUAL ANALYSIS**

On April 26, 2013, at 2:30 p.m., Deputies [REDACTED] and Stephen Park responded to a kidnapping call at [REDACTED] Vermont Avenue in the City of Los Angeles. Upon arriving at the location, [REDACTED] parked their marked patrol vehicle in a parking lot directly in front of [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] and Park contacted the reporting party, [REDACTED] in the doorway of that business [REDACTED] told them that [REDACTED] Brice Jefferson, had just kidnapped [REDACTED] while armed with a knife and was driving a maroon Mercury. After obtaining Jefferson's description and last known location, Park initiated a crime broadcast advising units to



canvass the area for Jefferson, who was last seen driving southbound on Vermont Avenue. As Paik continued questioning [REDACTED] Detectives Lespron and Silverstein arrived at the location and parked their unmarked patrol vehicle directly behind Paik's vehicle.<sup>1</sup>

Lespron and Silverstein walked to the front of [REDACTED] vehicle, directly in front of the passenger side. Paik, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] also went to that location. As [REDACTED] was providing information to the deputies, Jefferson called her cellphone. Jefferson told [REDACTED] he had dropped [REDACTED] off at the "Ralphs" market. During the conversation, Jefferson told [REDACTED] that he knew she had called the police. He told [REDACTED] to tell the police he was on his way and "they had better shoot." Paik advised other units to canvass the area in search of the [REDACTED] Paik then entered the passenger side of the patrol vehicle to run Jefferson on the mobile digital computer, using information provided by [REDACTED]

Detective Lespron asked [REDACTED] to call Jefferson so he could speak with him. Before the call could go through, [REDACTED] began pointing in the direction of Vermont Avenue and started yelling, "That's him! That's him!" [REDACTED] then observed a maroon Mercury in the number two lane of Vermont Avenue travelling southbound at a high rate of speed. [REDACTED] observed the vehicle make a quick right turn in a westbound direction, colliding with an SUV in the number three lane.<sup>2</sup> After making the turn, the vehicle began to accelerate and drove directly towards the location where [REDACTED], Lespron, Silverstein and [REDACTED] were standing.<sup>3</sup>

As the vehicle got closer, [REDACTED] observed that Jefferson had an enraged look on his face and was tensing up as he grabbed the steering wheel. [REDACTED] attempted to move out of the way to avoid being struck by the vehicle. Silverstein and Lespron also attempted to move away.<sup>4</sup> [REDACTED] could see that [REDACTED] had run to the south, but could not see where she had gone.<sup>5</sup>

Seconds later, Jefferson's vehicle struck the patrol vehicle. There was no time for any of the deputies to give Jefferson verbal commands to slow down prior to the collision, and Jefferson's speed was such that Jefferson would not have had time to stop before hitting the patrol car. As the patrol car was struck, [REDACTED] observed Lespron being thrown into the air. [REDACTED] was unsure if he had

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<sup>1</sup> The location is a strip mall with parking spots lining the west and south edges. [REDACTED] had not pulled into one of these spots, as all of the spots in front of the location were full. His vehicle was facing south, in an open area in the center of the lot. Lespron's unmarked vehicle was directly behind [REDACTED] facing the same direction.

<sup>2</sup> The driver of that vehicle, [REDACTED] advised investigators that she first saw Jefferson's car coming westbound on Imperial Highway, attempting to go against traffic in the eastbound lanes. [REDACTED] observed a red van swerve to avoid a collision with Jefferson's vehicle. When Jefferson struck her vehicle, he had a "furious look on his face." She then observed Jefferson enter the parking lot and accelerate straight at a black and white Sheriff's vehicle. [REDACTED] believed Jefferson intended to hit the deputies.

<sup>3</sup> Witness [REDACTED] observed Jefferson's car enter the parking lot from her vehicle. She estimated his speed to be 60-70 miles per hour. [REDACTED] described Jefferson as driving "like a bat outta hell." [REDACTED] indicated it appeared Jefferson was trying to run [REDACTED] and the deputies over with his car.

<sup>4</sup> Silverstein ran to the north, and was not struck by Jefferson's vehicle or the patrol vehicle.

<sup>5</sup> [REDACTED] informed investigators she fled when she saw Jefferson steering his vehicle directly at the deputies, "trying to run them over." She ran inside [REDACTED] where she heard the crash and gun shots. [REDACTED] had been standing right next to Lespron before she fled.

been hit by Jefferson's vehicle or by the patrol vehicle.<sup>6</sup> [REDACTED] did not see where Lespron landed, and was also unaware of where Silverstein was, or whether Park had been injured sitting in the patrol car.<sup>7</sup> The impact of the collision caused the vehicles' positions to change. The patrol vehicle had shifted almost 90 degrees, and was now facing to the southwest. Jefferson's vehicle was now facing to the northwest. The front passenger side panel of Jefferson's vehicle was pressed into the driver's side hood of the patrol vehicle. [REDACTED] was left standing in a small v-shaped space between the two vehicles, near the rear passenger side trunk of Jefferson's vehicle. [REDACTED] drew his weapon because he felt unsafe and unable to maneuver out of his position between the two cars. [REDACTED] was unsure if anyone had been injured in the collision.

[REDACTED] then observed that Jefferson was still in the driver's seat of the vehicle and had begun revving the engine. Jefferson still appeared to be enraged, and was looking over his right shoulder as if he was preparing to back up. [REDACTED] feared that Jefferson was about to back his vehicle into him, pinning him between the two vehicles. [REDACTED] was also concerned that Lespron, Silverstein or Park could be pinned under Jefferson's vehicle. Fearing for his safety, as well as the safety of his fellow deputies, [REDACTED] fired three rounds at Jefferson from his service weapon. [REDACTED] was approximately 15 feet from Jefferson when he fired.

Jefferson was struck twice, a non-fatal wound to the shoulder and a fatal wound to the back of the head. Toxicology testing done as part of the autopsy indicated that Jefferson had amphetamine and methamphetamine in his system at the time of his death.

Jefferson's [REDACTED] advised investigators that [REDACTED] had a "death wish." She indicated that Jefferson had mental health issues and was abusing methamphetamine. Jefferson had told her on multiple occasions that he would not go back to prison, and the police were going to have to kill him.

## LEGAL ANALYSIS

California law permits the use of deadly force in self-defense or in the defense of others if it reasonably appears to the person claiming the right of self-defense or the defense of others that he actually and reasonably believed that he or others were in imminent danger of great bodily injury or death. Penal Code § 197; *People v. Randle* (2005) 35 Cal.4<sup>th</sup> 987, 994 (overruled on another ground in *People v. Chun* (2009) 45 Cal.4<sup>th</sup> 1172, 1201); *People v. Humphrey* (1996) 13 Cal.4<sup>th</sup> 1073, 1082; see also, CALCRIM No. 505.

<sup>6</sup> Lespron heard [REDACTED] yell, "There he is!" but did not immediately see Jefferson's vehicle. By the time he saw the vehicle, it was coming directly at him. He saw that Jefferson had a "crazy deranged look on his face." When he realized the car was not slowing down, he tried to run toward the front end of the patrol vehicle but Jefferson's vehicle was travelling too fast for him to get out of the way. Lespron believes he jumped over the hood of the patrol vehicle and was thrown in the air when Jefferson's vehicle collided with the patrol vehicle. Lespron landed between two parked vehicles that were facing to the west. Lespron suffered [REDACTED] as a result of the collision.

<sup>7</sup> Park was not injured, but was trapped in the patrol vehicle after the collision. Park also believed that Lespron was pinned under one of the vehicles.

In protecting himself or another, a person may use all the force which he believes reasonably necessary and which would appear to a reasonable person, in the same or similar circumstances, to be necessary to prevent the injury which appears to be imminent. CALCRIM No. 3470. If the person's beliefs were reasonable, the danger does not need to have actually existed. *Id.*

"Where the peril is swift and imminent and the necessity for action immediate, the law does not weigh in too nice scales the conduct of the assailed and say he shall not be justified in killing because he might have resorted to other means to secure his safety." *People v. Collins* (1961) 189 Cal.App.2d 575, 589. "The 'reasonableness' of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than the 20/20 vision of hindsight.... The calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second judgments – in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving – about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation." *Graham v. Conner* (1989) 490 U.S. 386, 396-397.

Deputy [REDACTED] was reasonable in his use of deadly force in light of the circumstances. Jefferson had [REDACTED] using a knife, driven in a manner that appeared to have been deliberately designed to run over [REDACTED] and his fellow deputies, and possibly struck one or more deputies. [REDACTED] was reasonably in fear for his life, and that of other deputies, when he fired his service weapon. [REDACTED] was trapped between his patrol car and Jefferson's car, with every indication that Jefferson intended to back his vehicle up and strike [REDACTED]. Further, [REDACTED] was aware that at least one detective had been struck, and was concerned that one or more individuals could be stuck under a vehicle. As such, his use of force was no more than the situation warranted and was justified.

## CONCLUSION

We find that Deputy [REDACTED] acted lawfully in self-defense and in defense of others when he used deadly force against Brice Jefferson. We are closing our file and will take no further action in this matter.

Very truly yours,

JACKIE LACEY  
District Attorney

By 

ANN MARIE WISE  
Deputy District Attorney  
[REDACTED]

c: Deputy [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**  
*"A Tradition of Service"*



OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: July 21, 2016

FROM:  JOHN S. BENEDICT, COMMANDER  
NORTH PATROL DIVISION

TO: STEVEN J. SCIACCA, CAPTAIN  
SOUTH LOS ANGELES STATION

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE FORCE REVIEW COMMITTEE FINDINGS

Case Number:	SH2333612
Incident:	Hit Shooting
Incident Date:	April 26, 2013
Unit:	South Los Angeles Station
Suspect(s):	Jefferson, Brice MB/121588
Involved Employees:	Deputy  # 
EFRC Date:	July 21, 2016

The Executive Force Review Committee (EFRC) consisting of Commanders John S. Benedict, Ralph J. Webb, and David E. Halm met and reviewed the above case.

**FINDINGS:**

The EFRC determined the use of force and tactics were within Department policy.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The EFRC made no recommendations.

JSB:TLB:tlb